

CLAIMS:

1. A console box mounted on a vehicle, comprising:
a box main body:

5 first and second sidewalls that are arranged in a lateral direction of the vehicle and face each other, wherein the box main body is located between the first and second sidewalls, wherein each of the first and second sidewalls has a guide portion extending in a moving direction of the vehicle, and
10 wherein the guide portions are formed in facing surfaces of the first and second sidewalls; and

an armrest that is located above the box main body and between the first and second sidewalls, wherein the armrest has a first surface facing the first sidewall and a second
15 surface facing the second sidewall, wherein an engaging portion is provided on each of the first and second surfaces, and each engaging portion is slidably engaged with the corresponding guide portion such that the armrest is supported between the first and second sidewalls and slidable in the
20 moving direction of the vehicle.

2. The console box according to claim 1, wherein the box main body has an opening, wherein the armrest slides between a closing position for closing the opening and an opening
25 position for opening the opening, thereby functioning as a lid for selectively opening and closing the opening.

3. The console box according to claim 2, wherein the armrest slides frontward, thereby moving toward the closing
30 position, and slides rearward, thereby moving toward the opening position.

4. The console box according to claim 1, wherein the guide portions are grooves, and the engaging portions are
35 projections.

5. The console box according to claim 1, wherein the engaging portions are one of a plurality of engaging portions provided on the first surface and one of a plurality of
5 engaging portions provided on the second surface.

6. The console box according to claim 3, wherein the engaging portions are provided in portions of the armrest that are spaced apart from the rear end of the armrest by a
10 predetermined distance along the moving direction of the vehicle.

7. The console box according to claim 4, wherein each of the guide portions has a recess connected to the guide
15 portion, wherein the engaging portions are one of a plurality of engaging portions provided on the first surface and one of a plurality of engaging portions provided on the second surface, wherein each of one of the engaging portions on the first surface and one of the engaging portions on the second
20 surface corresponds to one of the recesses, and functions as a positioning member that is moved between an engaging position where it is engaged with the corresponding recess and a non-engaging position where it is not engaged with the corresponding recess, wherein, when each positioning member is
25 not engaged with the corresponding recess, the armrest is slidable, and wherein, when each positioning member is engaged with the corresponding recess, the armrest is not slidable.

8. The console box according to claim 7, wherein the
30 positioning members are retractable into the armrest, and wherein each positioning member is projected from and retracted into the armrest to move between the engaging position and the non-engaging position.

35 9. The console box according to claim 8, wherein each

positioning member is provided with a biasing member, wherein, when each positioning member is at the non-engaging position, the corresponding biasing member biases the positioning member toward the engaging position.

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10. The console box according to claim 9, wherein the armrest has a lever, and wherein, when at the engaging position, the positioning members move to the non-engaging position against the force of the biasing member in response to manipulation of the lever.

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11. The console box according to claim 10, wherein the armrest includes a moving member and a pair of arcuate coupler members, wherein the moving member linearly reciprocates in response to manipulation of the lever, and each arcuate coupler member couples the moving member with one of the positioning members, and wherein, in response to manipulation of the lever, each positioning member moves in a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of the moving member.

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12. The console box according to claim 1, wherein the guide portions ascend frontward so that the armrest ascends as it moves frontward.

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13. The console box according to claim 2, wherein the armrest can be moved from the opening position to a retreat position, at which the armrest is generally off a position above the box main body.

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14. The console box according to claim 13, wherein each of the first and second sidewalls has an auxiliary guide portion that branches from the corresponding guide portion, wherein each engaging portion is selectively engaged with the corresponding guide portion and the corresponding auxiliary guide portion, which branches from the guide portion, wherein,

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when each engaging portion is engaged with the corresponding auxiliary guide portion, the armrest is upright and at the retreat position.

5 15. The console box according to claim 13, wherein the armrest includes a pair of arm members, wherein a proximal end of each arm member is pivotally coupled to the armrest, wherein one of the engaging portions is provided at a distal end of each arm member, and wherein, when the armrest is
10 pivoted such that the distance between the armrest and the engaging portions is maximum, the armrest is upright and at the retreat position.

15 16. The console box according to claim 15, wherein a positioning mechanism is provided between the armrest and each arm member, wherein the positioning mechanism positions the armrest at a position where the distance between the armrest and the engaging portions is substantially maximum and a position where the distance between the armrest and the
20 engaging portions is substantially minimum.

25 17. The console box according to claim 2, wherein the armrest is coupled to a shutter, and wherein the shutter moves together with sliding of the armrest, and partly opens and closes the opening.

30 18. The console box according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second sidewalls has a hollow, a front air hole, and a rear air hole, wherein the front air hole is formed in a front part of the sidewall and connected to the hollow, and the rear air hole is formed in a rear part of the sidewall and connected to the hollow, wherein air that is conditioned by a vehicle air conditioner is drawn into each hollow through the corresponding front air hole and discharged from the
35 corresponding rear air hole.

19. The console box according to claim 1, wherein a rear end part of each guide portion extends arcuately.

5 20. The console box according to claim 1, wherein a part of the armrest overhangs the first and second sidewalls.

10 21. The console box according to claim 3, wherein a cover extends between a part of the first sidewall and a part of the second sidewall, which parts are above the guide portions, wherein, when the armrest is at the closing position, the cover covers rear parts of the guide portions from above.

15 22. The console box according to claim 21, wherein, when the armrest is moving to the opening position, the cover is off the path of the armrest.

20 23. The console box according to claim 21, further comprising a pocket with an opening located at a rear side of the box main body, wherein the cover functions as a lid for opening and closing the opening of the pocket.

25 24. The console box according to claim 2, further comprising a biasing mechanism, wherein, when the armrest is at the opening position, the biasing mechanism biases the armrest toward the closing position.

30 25. The console box according to claim 24, further comprising a braking mechanism, wherein, when the armrest is moving from the opening position to the closing position, the braking mechanism applies a braking effect to the armrest.

35 26. The console box according to claim 25, further comprising a holding mechanism, wherein the armrest is at the opening position, the holding mechanism releasably holds the

armrest at the opening position.